

12/16/68

Dear Hal,

Thus far I've avoided interviewing all the off-beat preachers because there are unanswerable at best and usually. Broshure is no exception. His behavior in New Orleans was, even for that tolerant town, scandalous. If every thing he said were true, who could believe him? He and others like him have caused a tremendous waste of time and energy that could better be spent almost any other way. More, I do not believe Fefrie ever told anyone what Broshure says he told him. These guys almost without exception feed back what they know Jim wants and is talking about, each seeking a little glory at the same time.

He chased young boys through New Orleans, created a scene at Barber's home when he wanted to bring one in, got himself arrested in his exertions only to proclaim immunity because he was Garrison's star witness, was finally chased out of town by went back west to announce he had given 14 hours of the most important testimony, was exonerated almost everyone in the office as necessary blemish! Believe him!

Associating with him is in itself bad, as Jeffre did. It will not be of help if any use is made at the trial, nor does it tend to make people think we are responsible.

They are all crooks - one kind or another, making a living living in a very devious way, preying on others. In this story, they are in character.

On threats against Jim: by all means report them to Louis Ivan, for who can take a chance. I do not believe he has been in any danger for a long time. Having become his own worst enemy by his excesses, he eliminated any need for killing him. However, these threats tell me how hot his period, before that, from what Vince says. I now think at least some were intended only as a war of nerves.

I think it a mistake to pay the slightest attention to these guys when there is so much legitimate work to be done. However, I do, immediately, relay your message to "Jim" and I give him hell for it.

There has been a major disaster in this endless feeding of bad information. It has perhaps ruined the investigation. One of the worst offenders was Turner. If he supplied a single piece of worthwhile information, I have not found it, save that he forwarded the work of others as his own, and that was not common. The more, since this could well have made a major difference. He teamed up with Neale on some things. At the very best it looks really suspicious. Vince and Gary are convinced he is an agent; I am not, but don't make much difference when the effect is evaluated?

Jim seemed close to using some of this stuff several times, did get too close to Willie Lee often. One of the worst is Fene. I'd like to know what you know about him, in detail, especially on "The Plot", Harve Lasserre, etc. That, I am convinced, is an intelligence operation, at French, and there are some rather nice fits with other things already. I regard this as important. When we can be face to face again I can tell you what I now cannot. But believe me, we will all be on the brink of disaster. It is so far out you'll have trouble crediting it.

Save for the fortunate accident of my unexpected return to New Orleans, at this request, when I was in Dallas, it might by now be all over.

There is and has been too much of a tendency out there to take "time" every announcement's the true given word. It is anything but that, as the most casual analysis should show. People should do their own thinking, not be propagandists. I am not addressing you but am making a general observation that I think you will see is too-wide applicable, especially among the newsletters and the underground papers.

In any event, in New Orleans the sole direction must be toward the Shaw trial. I do not know what evidence he may have or which he may have no knowledge, but I also know of no cause for rejoicing. I think it is possible the case may be lost technically if not factually. They have asked me to return as soon as I can, before the trial, and I shall. I will wait until I hear from Mrs. My best estimate at the moment is about mid-January.

If, instead of following the Turners and Boxleys (and Falmers) and James' wife, Tongue tickled his ear, "in his concentrate" on his local stuff, where he has jurisdiction and where slight sums would have been sufficient, he could have had several other visible cases ready for court. I know what I've been able to develop down there, and that in a relatively short amount of working time, I think he'd have been able to get the kind of indictments he really wants. As it is, aside from the indictment of Shaw, he has nothing on the assassination itself, nor on any of the excludes.

The rest of us, however, must do our own things. We have the entire field to cover, and that we should, independently, and without feeding everything to him for him to use or abuse as he sees fit. New Orleans material, by all means, but nothing not related to it. The alternative is to destroy the usefulness of all the solid stories we've up.

We'll have enough of a disaster if he fails in court, particularly after all his big talk based on nothing, about the kinds of things he can not present to a jury that may well be swaying him.

Gotta get back to work. Clean up, tight belt, and a good year!

Sincerely,